

AMENDMENTIN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An article having on at least a portion of a surface a multi-layer coating comprising:

the surface, and the surface is one of a faucet surface and a door knob surface;  
a layer comprised of polymer on said surface of said article; and  
a color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound on said layer comprised of polymer, and said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is uncoated.

2. (ORIGINAL) The article of claim 1 wherein said refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrides, carbides, oxides and carbonitrides.

3. (ORIGINAL) The article of claim 2 wherein said refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is a refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.

4. (ORIGINAL) The article of claim 1 wherein a layer comprised of refractory metal or refractory metal alloy is on said layer comprised of polymer.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim [[4]]8 wherein said layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is a layer comprised of refractory metal oxide or refractory metal alloy oxide is on said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim [[4]]24 wherein a layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is a layer comprised of refractory metal oxide or refractory metal alloy oxide is on said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An article having on at least a portion of a surface a multi-layer coating comprising:

a layer comprised of polymer on said surface of said article;

a color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound on said layer comprised of polymer; and

The article of claim 1 wherein a color and protective a layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is on said layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound.

9. (ORIGINAL) The article of claim 1 wherein said layer comprised of polymer is comprised of epoxy urethane.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The article of claim 1 wherein said refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrides and carbonitrides.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The article of claim 10 wherein a layer comprised of refractory metal or refractory metal alloy is on said layer comprised of polymer.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim [[11]]26 wherein said layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is a layer comprised of refractory metal oxide or refractory metal alloy oxide is on said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim [[11]]27 wherein said layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is a layer comprised of refractory metal oxide or refractory metal alloy oxide is on said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound.

14 and 15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim 1 wherein said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound provides one of a gold color, a brass color, and/or a nickel color.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim 1 wherein said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compounds compound or refractory metal alloy compound provides a nickel color.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim 1 wherein the surface is the-a faucet surface.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of claim 1 wherein the surface is the-a door knob surface.

20. (NEW) The article of claim 1 wherein said layer comprised of polymer is directly on said surface of said article.

21. (NEW) The article of claim 1 wherein said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is directly on said layer comprised of polymer.

22. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrides, carbides, oxides and carbonitrides.
23. (NEW) The article of claim 22 wherein said refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is a refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.
24. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein a layer comprised of refractory metal or refractory metal alloy is on said layer comprised of polymer.
25. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said layer comprised of polymer is comprised of epoxy urethane.
26. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrides and carbonitrides.
27. (NEW) The article of claim 26 wherein a layer comprised of refractory metal or refractory metal alloy is on said layer comprised of polymer.
28. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound provides one of a gold color, a brass color, or nickel color.
29. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound provides a nickel color.
30. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein the surface is a faucet.
31. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein the surface is a door knob.

32. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said layer comprised of polymer is directly on said surface of said article.

33. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound is directly on said layer comprised of polymer.

34. (NEW) The article of claim 8 wherein said layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is directly on said color and protective layer comprised of refractory metal compound or refractory metal alloy compound.